

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Pace Industries, Airo Division

#### Catalyst Connection

#### Pace Industries-Airo Division Increases Productivity

**Client Profile:**

Pace Industries-Airo Division, founded in 1975, produces precise aluminum die cast products for a wide variety of industries including nuclear, automotive and telecommunications. The company employs 350 people at its facility in Loyalhanna, Pennsylvania.

**Situation:**

Pace Industries-Airo Division wanted to train a small team of employees to be champions of the Six Sigma process that could then be implemented and shared with groups throughout the division. The company wanted to use the Six Sigma analytical tools to increase efficiency and productivity. They contacted Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

**Solution:**

Catalyst Connection's training partner, Sharon Gregory of Hexagon Solutions and Beyond, provided a hands-on Six Sigma Green Belt training to Pace Industries-Airo Division's employees. Gregory provided project coaching to each Green Belt participant as they applied the Six Sigma approach to a real situation on the shop floor. The projects completed by the Pace Industries six sigma champions included unscheduled machine downtime reduction, part scrap reduction, improve part reduction rate, machine cycle time reduction and handling of parts improvement. The changes implemented as a result of this work with Catalyst Connection increased productivity and improved the manufacturing process.

**Results:**

- \* Realized \$200,000 in cost savings.
- \* Increased productivity by 100 percent.
- \* Reduced scrap rates by 80 percent.
- \* Reduced downtime on casting machine by 40 percent.

**Testimonial:**

"We got return on the training out of the first projects. Over the first year, total return on investment should be about 500 percent."

Daniel Krinock, President